

Boise Neighborhood Association  
General Meeting  
3/13/17 7-9 pm

**Agenda:**

- Chair's Comments & Introductions - 10 min
- Presentation: Gage Hamilton - Forest For The Trees - 20 min (with Q&A)
- Presentation: Lydia Grijalva - Know Your City's Boise Eliot Humboldt School zine - 20 min (with Q&A)
- Open Comment - 20 min
- \*Added: Discussion of 919 N. Cook - permitted Doug Fir tree removal (Works Partnership Architects; Tim Brown, owner)
- Announcement of neighborhood cleanup proposal in conjunction with the Vancouver-Williams Business Association - 10 min
- Announcement of upcoming BNA small grant program - 5 min
- Treasurer's Report - 5 min
- Communications Report - 15 min
- Land Use Report - 10 min

**Attendees:**

- **Board:** David de la Rocha, Katy Wolf, Howard Patterson, Kay Newell, JP Castiaux (virtual), Karis Stoudamire-Phillips
- **Neighbors:** Andrine de la Rocha, Richard, Chloe, Claire
- **Guests:** Gage Hamilton (Forest for the Trees), Lydia Grijalva (Know Your City), Yvette Davis (Boise-Eliot PTA)

**7:03 Introductions**

**7:06 Chair's Comments**

- David got a notice that Forest for the Trees (FFTT) would be doing a mural at the green warehouse on Michigan and Failing. FFTT has taken over a former Finnish bath house building. Invited Gage to the meeting.

**7:08 Forest for the Trees (FFTT) - Gage Hamilton**

- FFTT - non profit, 60 murals all over city in last 3 years. International and local artists. Gage shows examples of FFTT murals. Eric Payne bought the Finnish bath house, and asked Gage to paint it. They want to put some studio space there and add an ADU. Gage moved in, and they are going to do some programming there throughout the year since FFTT murals are one week in the summer. Workshop, talks, performance space, especially for underrepresented groups. No studio rent payment for them.
- Gage's mural will be mostly monochromatic, will tap into history of space and also be abstract, facing Michigan. Spencer Cunningham will do the other wall, will be more colorful, facing Failing and alley.

- Want to start having programming soon. Next month will have spoken word and dance showcase for Black Portlanders. Will have about one event a month.
- Each summer mural project is different. May have 15-20 walls. A big wall could be \$50K. No one makes any money. Artists donate time and work. Had to overcome some perceptions that murals were illegal or if a wall was donated that they didn't need to advertise for that business in the mural. Now they're on 4th year, have better funding, have RACC grants and are hoping to get a grant from OR Cultural Trust. Would love to be able to pay the artists eventually.
- They try and match up business owners with an artist they like, but they don't do commissions.
- Has been a shift in appreciation for their work in recent years in public sphere. Trimet has gotten more receptive.
- Most people don't know the history of murals on Mississippi. Boise has a history of graffiti abatement through murals. Kay thinks it would be great if we could get permission to do this again in the alleys. Murals are good for the community, for neighbors and tourists. Gage says the City hasn't allowed "free walls" for a while but Portland Street Art Alliance has recently successfully done one so they have changed the RACC rules.
- They have done a little bit of sculptural aspects and want to do more. This is a new challenge. Howard suggests sculptural work during the winter that can be installed in the summer.

### **7:31 Lydia Grijalva - Know Your City**

- Lydia is the Youth and Education Program Coordinator, so she goes into school and works with kids to make zines. KYC is equity-focused arts organization, look to uplift voices for people whose stories are not normally told.
- The Jade Journal was done in East Portland. Each article is done in 4 different languages. Jade Journal was more text heavy than what they're doing now at Boise Eliot Humboldt with 8th graders. They also did children's books at Roosevelt High School last year. Funding comes from a variety of methods.
- The BEH class chose "food" as topic. One article looks at gentrification by looking at what food is accessible. Next step will be selling advertisements to businesses. Ads have equity focus too. Also asking with volunteers from community who can help with translation. Haven't yet talked to a school language specialist to find out what BEH's main languages are.
- Looking for volunteer support for next year. They want to get kids to tell stories, getting in guest speakers that tell stories that feel relatable, taking them to places to see successful people with backgrounds similar to theirs. Always need more chaperones, mentors, speakers, translators, graphic design. Lydia is the only one that does this program right now, she has a paid position. KYC funding comes from memberships, publications, tours, grants, panels, other events. These fund a lot of printing and staff time. Lydia also teaches graphic design in exchange for help with the zines. Lydia is also teaching these skills to the kids, which are marketable skills that can become a career.
- One of KYC's event series is Resistance Talks - going on now. [www.knowyourcity.org](http://www.knowyourcity.org)

### **7:54 Boise Eliot PTA President, Yvette Davis**

- Trying to find ways to partner, both large scale and just getting people into the building related to Science and Math. BEH is a STEAM school. They throw a monthly STEAM night, last week was building catapults, before that was a windmill challenge. Whatever the focus is that month, they try to get it into each type of class.
- Kay suggests having the kids try to get advertisements from businesses for their school newsletter, which will teach them marketing, design, writing, and earn some money. Could even work with the KYC zine. Get the money upfront, do it for the whole year.
- Yvette will invite BNA board to an upcoming PTA board meeting.

### **7:51 Karis Stoudamire -Phillips**

- At BNA Board retreat, we talked about wanting to connect with both BEH and SEI schools. Karis has reached out to both. Members of SEI will come to upcoming BNA meetings, and BNA will get a tour.
- Cornelius Swart's documentary is almost done. It will be a few months to go before it can be screened at the community level. He would love to partner with the BNA when that time comes. The film will also screen the documentary in part, or completely at the Vanport Festival in August. Probably will be at Portland Meadows. We'd like to have a discussion afterwards, hear some stories from old and new timers.

### **8:02 Open Comment**

#### **Update on property at 919 N. Cook at Mississippi**

- Today the two Doug Firs in front of the property were cut down. A neighbor posted this on Nextdoor and Katy saw and alerted BNA, called BDS Code Enforcement and Urban Forestry, and went to the site to talk to the construction company to get the tree removal permit.
- The owner is Tim Brown, SKK LLC. The hired architect is Works Partnership Architecture ( (503) 234-2945, [lisa@worksarchitecture.net](mailto:lisa@worksarchitecture.net)). The construction company Abbott Construction was hired to destroy the two Doug Firs on the sidewalk strip, which were over 100 years old. They were not salvaged; all wood was put into a wood chipper on the spot. After some confusion with Urban Forestry, BNA determined that Abbott had been issued an Early Street Tree Removal permit ([https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bz14\\_duot-yeOHpwNjZ3SGhNa00/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bz14_duot-yeOHpwNjZ3SGhNa00/view)), because they were 30% through their Land Use permit review process, which is the threshold. Urban Forestry has been aware of and has inspected the site since 2014. Though last month, our Board and Land Use Chair David de la Rocha reached out to the owner because of an unrelated City-required notification to us about a truck driveway modification request, and WPA seemed uninterested in presenting their design to us, or in having a public green space between theirs and the Holst project on the Cook Alley. They didn't mention that they were going to remove the trees either. Uncooperative property owners/architects that don't meet or present to us are a rarity in Boise; most have presented and been receptive to our feedback. Some have even thanked us for offering

suggestions that improve their designs, and for our clear Design Guidelines, which have been recognized by City Council.

- **Information from Rick Faber, Urban Forestry (issued the permit) and Angie diSalvo, Urban Forestry Heritage tree program:**
  - These were “street trees within the public right of way”. Adjacent property owner is responsible for them but they are a public asset. That’s why they were denied removal before. But they were inhibiting private development.
  - There have been some Public Works early assistance meetings.
  - This wasn’t an easy decision on Urban Forestry’s end. They don’t take the decisions lightly.
  - Why wasn’t there a public notice period? It wasn’t built into Title 11’s code. Haven’t heard of any movement on getting that changed. May change through routine amendment process (no timeline).
  - These were eligible to be nominated as Heritage trees, and there was discussion of them being nominated, but they were not. Anyone can nominate a tree in the right of way. Angie said that she has been on the Heritage tree committee for the last 7 years. They don’t keep record of those that have been declined, but she didn’t think they had been. They were the tallest trees in the neighborhood (PSU data). But, even if they had been Heritage trees, likely they would not have been able to retain them because of the proximity to the right of way.
    - It’s pretty easy to nominate a tree. If it’s in private land that’s not yours, you need property owner’s permission. But if it’s in the right of way, it takes a year, the Heritage Tree committee takes it to the Urban Forestry commission who takes it to City Council. There has to be enough space for tree to continue growing. They may have outgrown the space. Has to be based on the current situation, not future.
  - Was wood chipping in compliance? As long as everything is hauled away.
- The Albina Neighborhood Tree Team (ANTT) has done some great projects this year. They planted some trees by the freeway on the west side of Mississippi. There might be some more room for trees there. Maybe more on the PBOT side.
- JP, Howard and Katy want to get access to our Tree Inventory, scout out the biggest, oldest and apply for Heritage Tree nominations for them.

#### **8:14 Land Use Report - David de la Rocha**

- Last meeting, we had a presentation at 177 N. Failing at Vancouver next to LivingSpace. (See Feb LUTC minutes on LUTC page).

#### **8:25 Report - Katy Wolf (Communications Chair, Neighborhood Emergency Team Lead)**

- Repair Cafe at Rebuilding Center: Thurs March 23 6-8 pm. Volunteer fixers will be repairing textiles, garments, small appliances and bikes.

- Currently soliciting donations to our neighborhood team emergency cache. Katy and two other NETs have posted on Nextdoor about this - items needed and where to donate. We need to store items for the earthquake, and we're starting with donations. Next step will be to get a team cache at our staging area, Unthank Park. We also hope to fundraise down the line for items we can't get donated.
- Meet and talk to Rep. Tawna Sanchez - Sat March 18 9-10 am at PCC Cascade Student Union

**8:27 Announcement of neighborhood cleanup proposal in conjunction with the Vancouver-Williams Business Association**

- No date selected yet, but we will announce at April meeting. Will also promote on the BNA FB page and April email newsletter.

**8:28 Announcement of upcoming BNA small grant program**

- We have \$8,000 in our BNA funds, we want to use \$2,000 for small grants. We will be giving out four \$500 grants. We haven't set the criteria yet. Will make official announcement of process in April. JP will draft it up and BNA will chat later this week.

8:31 Meeting adjourned.